

By: Ellis

S.B. No. 2280

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of the Reentry Policy Council to review corrections policies, programs, and procedures for inmates released into the community.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subtitle B, Title 4, Government Code, is amended by adding Chapter 415 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 415. REENTRY POLICY COUNCIL

Sec. 415.001. DEFINITION. In this chapter, "council" means the Reentry Policy Council.

Sec. 415.002. COUNCIL; COMPOSITION. (a) The Reentry Policy Council is created.

(b) The council is composed of the following 33 members:

(1) the director of the criminal justice division of the governor's office or the director's designee;

(2) the executive director of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice or the executive director's designee;

(3) the director of the parole division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice or the director's designee;

(4) the director of the community justice assistance division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice or the director's designee;

(5) the director of the rehabilitation and reentry programs division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice or

- 1 the director's designee;  
2           (6) the director of the Texas Correctional Office on  
3 Offenders with Medical or Mental Impairments or the director's  
4 designee;  
5           (7) the executive director of the Texas Workforce  
6 Commission or the executive director's designee;  
7           (8) the executive commissioner of the Texas Youth  
8 Commission or the executive commissioner's designee;  
9           (9) the executive director of the Texas Juvenile  
10 Probation Commission or the executive director's designee;  
11           (10) the chair of the Task Force on Indigent Defense or  
12 the chair's designee;  
13           (11) the chair of the Texas Judicial Council or the  
14 chair's designee;  
15           (12) the assistant commissioner for the mental health  
16 and substance abuse services division of the Department of State  
17 Health Services;  
18           (13) the commissioner of the Department of Aging and  
19 Disability Services or the commissioner's designee;  
20           (14) the commissioner of education of the Texas  
21 Education Agency or the commissioner's designee;  
22           (15) the executive director of the Texas Department of  
23 Licensing and Regulation or the executive director's designee;  
24           (16) the executive director of the Department of  
25 Family and Protective Services or the executive director's  
26 designee;  
27           (17) the executive director of the Texas Department of

1 Housing and Community Affairs or the executive director's designee;  
2 (18) the executive director of the Council on Sex  
3 Offender Treatment or the executive director's designee;  
4 (19) the public safety director of the Department of  
5 Public Safety or the director's designee;  
6 (20) the executive director of the Sheriffs'  
7 Association of Texas or the executive director's designee;  
8 (21) the executive director of the Texas District and  
9 County Attorneys Association or the executive director's designee;  
10 (22) the executive director of the Texas Criminal  
11 Defense Lawyers Association or the executive director's designee;  
12 (23) the executive director of Texas RioGrande Legal  
13 Aid or the executive director's designee;  
14 (24) the executive director of the Restorative Justice  
15 Ministries Network of Texas or the executive director's designee;  
16 (25) the executive director of the Texas Conference of  
17 Urban Counties or the executive director's designee;  
18 (26) the presiding officer of the Austin/Travis County  
19 Reentry Roundtable or the presiding officer's designee;  
20 (27) the presiding officer of the Bexar County  
21 Re-Entry Roundtable or the presiding officer's designee;  
22 (28) a representative of the Tarrant County Reentry  
23 Initiative, appointed by the county judge of Tarrant County;  
24 (29) the director of the City of Houston Department of  
25 Health and Human Services or the director's designee;  
26 (30) the presiding officer of the standing committee  
27 of the house of representatives with primary jurisdiction over

1 corrections issues or the presiding officer's designee;

2 (31) the presiding officer of the standing committee  
3 of the senate with primary jurisdiction over corrections issues or  
4 the presiding officer's designee;

5 (32) one public member who resides in Dallas County  
6 and has experience working on reentry issues, appointed by the  
7 county judge of Dallas County; and

8 (33) one public member who resides in El Paso County  
9 and has experience working on reentry issues, appointed by the  
10 county judge of El Paso County.

11 Sec. 415.003. DUTIES; ANNUAL REPORT. (a) The council  
12 shall:

13 (1) analyze the statutory and regulatory obstacles to,  
14 and practices that impede, the reintegration of offenders into the  
15 community following their release or discharge;

16 (2) examine methods of pooling resources and revenue  
17 streams to reduce the rate of recidivism among offenders;

18 (3) identify best practices that have proven to be  
19 effective in reentry support, treatment, and intervention intended  
20 to reduce the harmful effects of an offender's confinement on the  
21 offender's family and community;

22 (4) advise the governor and the director of the  
23 criminal justice division of the governor's office on effective  
24 reentry policies and programs that can be funded through federal,  
25 state, and private grants; and

26 (5) perform any other duties required by the Second  
27 Chance Act of 2007 (Pub. L. No. 110-199).

1 (b) Not later than September 1 of each year, the council  
2 shall deliver a report of the council's findings and  
3 recommendations to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the  
4 speaker of the house of representatives, and the standing  
5 committees of the house of representatives and the senate with  
6 primary jurisdiction over corrections matters.

7 Sec. 415.004. TENURE OF MEMBERS. (a) An appointed member  
8 of the council serves a two-year term.

9 (b) A member who serves on the council by virtue of the  
10 member's office serves on the council for the period during which  
11 the member holds that office.

12 Sec. 415.005. COMPENSATION AND REIMBURSEMENT. A member of  
13 the council serves without compensation but, from funds  
14 appropriated to the criminal justice division of the governor's  
15 office, is entitled to reimbursement for actual and necessary  
16 expenses incurred in the performance of official council duties as  
17 provided by Chapter 660.

18 Sec. 415.006. PRESIDING OFFICER. The council shall select  
19 from among its members a presiding officer of the council.

20 Sec. 415.007. MEETINGS. The council shall meet at the call  
21 of the presiding officer.

22 Sec. 415.008. TECHNICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANCE. The  
23 criminal justice division of the governor's office shall provide  
24 the council with resources for:

25 (1) data collection, research, and analysis; and

26 (2) publication of the council's findings and reports.

27 Sec. 415.009. GRANTS AND DONATIONS. The council may accept

1 grants and donations from public and private entities.

2 Sec. 415.010. CONSTRUCTION WITH OTHER LAW. Chapter 2110  
3 does not apply to the council.

4 Sec. 415.011. SUNSET PROVISION; COUNCIL ABOLISHED. The  
5 council is subject to Chapter 325 (Texas Sunset Act). Unless  
6 continued in existence as provided by that chapter, the council is  
7 abolished and this chapter expires September 1, 2013.

8 SECTION 2. (a) Not later than the 60th day after the  
9 effective date of this Act, the county judge of Dallas County, the  
10 county judge of El Paso County, and the county judge of Tarrant  
11 County shall make the appointments required by Chapter 415,  
12 Government Code, as added by this Act.

13 (b) The Reentry Policy Council shall submit the first report  
14 required by Section 415.003, Government Code, as added by this Act,  
15 not later than September 1, 2010.

16 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
17 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
18 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
19 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
20 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.